

**GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018**

The Glastonbury Town Council with Town Manager, Richard J. Johnson, in attendance, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

1. Roll Call

Council Members

Mr. Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
Mrs. Jill Barry, Vice Chairman
Dr. Stewart Beckett III
Ms. Deborah A. Carroll
Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh
Ms. Mary LaChance
Mr. Lawrence Niland
Mr. George P. Norman
Mr. Whit C. Osgood

1. Roll Call.

(a) Pledge of Allegiance.

Led by Mr. Cavanaugh

2. Public Comment.

Ms. Erica Thrall said that she is a triathlete with nowhere to train for swimming in town and her son can't use the pool during adult swim but it's difficult to do laps during open swim. She urged the Council to add a feasibility study for a year-round aquatic facility.

Mr. Peter Stassen of Sartorius Sports said he has heard people complain about having to leave town to swim or struggle for lanes at the limited opportunities in town. He said that the number one customer in his database are swimmers. He felt it would be used if it were built.

Ms. Christine Depierro of 37 Hale Road advocated for a year-round aquatic facility, specifically a therapy and rehab pool, similar to what was helpful for her through an injury. She said that Glastonbury would benefit from such a facility and urged the Council to fund a feasibility study.

Mr. Marty Abrams of Three Mile Road explained that he used to swim out of town until they built the high school pool. At the time, some said they didn't need it and it wouldn't be used but that turned out not to be the case. He said he used to swim every day in the very early morning but doesn't as often due to the poor times available for swimming laps. He said that he has a cardiac condition and wouldn't be doing so well if it weren't for swimming. He said that if they build another pool, it would be used.

Dr. Susan Sokoloski advocated for a year-round aquatic facility over a summer facility remarking that the slots available at the high school are not desirable. She spoke to the health benefits and all the various constituents.

Ms. Peggy Alberg of Miller Road said she was a triathlete and her kids were competitive swimmers. She advocated for a year-round aquatic facility saying it will bring people together and into town to patronize restaurants.

Mr. David Sergio of 46 Nuthatch Knob noted that the high school pool is crowded at 5:30am and advocated for a year-round aquatic center.

Ms. Maryellen Linderman explained she used to go to the High School early but there would be three people in a lane and it cost \$800/year to belong to the health club to swim. She said it was important for health and advocated for a year-round aquatic facility.

Ms. Suzanne Hoyt of 3695 Hebron Avenue explained her experience as a coach at the high school and parent noting that her kids learned in Rocky Hill and she goes to West Hartford or Healthtrax. She said that the high school pool is too cold for young children and older people and encouraged the Council to study an indoor aquatic facility.

Mr. Anzo Heights of 2190 Main Street explained his fondness for the town and that it was recommended he swim for a lung issue. He also said that they have a 5-year old daughter for which they leave town so she can swim.

Ms. Jennifer Lui of 368 Birch Mountain Road explained that her daughter wanted to do lap swimming but can't do it during adult swim or open swim.

Ms. Maria Boiseneau of Sunset Drive said that her daughter swims in East Hartford advocating for it as a great way to bring generations together. She also noted the inability of youth to do lap swimming and the ability for swim meets to bring business into town.

Mr. David Lui echoed the benefit of having a facility in town to bring business to the community.

(a) Proclamation - April as National Poetry Month

Ms. Carroll read the proclamation designating April as National Poetry Month. Mrs. Alexandrina Sergio, Poet Laureate, expressed appreciation for the proclamation and thanked the Town Council for their support from the beginning.

3. Special Reports. *None*

4. Old Business. *None*

5. New Business.

(a) Action to support Tobacco 21 Program.

Motion By: Mr. Niland **Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby expresses support for the Tobacco 21 initiative and proposed State Legislation to increase the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21 years of age.

Disc: Dr. Beckett said that smoking is a horrible idea and a nasty, disgusting habit but did not feel it was the appropriate role of government to tell people how to live their lives and criminalizing everything they find objectionable. He called it horrible public policy. Mr. Niland said that this is more about the age to sell saying that 90-95% of smokers are addicted before the age of 21. He said that they don't quibble about the drinking age and spoke to how many active duty military personnel die from tobacco use. He spoke to the health cost and the burden on state taxpayers. He said that this would help reduce accessibility of tobacco to children under 21 and if he was able to save one child from the addiction, he would sleep better. Mr. Norman said that it wasn't a matter of whether children 18, 19 and 20 should smoke but whether it was the role of government in this case. He noted that at the start of the country, the people decided they wanted liberty including the right to make bad choices. He said that the use of alcohol by one individual could cause injury to another but he didn't hear the same issue with tobacco. He said that they could adjust for health costs and an 18-year old can serve in the military so they have to allow them to make these decisions as well.

Ms. Carroll said that the goal is to keep tobacco products away from young people and that vaping is very popular among teens right now. She said that she works with teens and loves them but said that they have a profound lack of judgement regarding the repercussions of their choices. Mr. Osgood said that this is about supporting the state legislation. Vice Chairman Barry said that she wholeheartedly supported the motion and has been working at the state level.

She commented that children have a lot of decisions to make and wanted to take this one off the table. Ms. LaChance talked about her family members that suffered and died from smoking. She noted that the brains of young people aren't fully developed until their mid 20's. Chairman Gullotta spoke to the history of government involvement in publicizing the health dangers of smoking and the addictive properties of nicotine. He continued saying that an individual with lung cancer and one lung removed will often still continue to smoke demonstrating that it is not the choice of the individual but the addiction driving the decisions. He spoke to the research about those that take up marijuana usually smoke first and if they delay access to tobacco, they are likely able to delay or potentially eliminate use of other drugs. He said it isn't a perfect bill but a starting point.

Result: Motion carries by the following vote {5-4-0}

For: Chairman Gullotta, Vice Chairman Barry, Ms. Carroll, Ms. LaChance and Mr. Niland

Against: Dr. Beckett, Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Norman and Mr. Osgood

Abstain: None

6. Consent Calendar.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

(a) Action to schedule Public Information Hearing – Fisher Hill Road Bridge Project.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a Public Information Hearing for [7:30 p.m./8:00 p.m.] on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury to review the preliminary Engineering Plan for replacement of the Fisher Hill Road Bridge over Roaring Brook as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 23, 2018.

(b) Action on transfer from General Fund-Unassigned Fund balance – Materials Innovations and Recycling (MIRA) surplus distribution-\$83,600 (set Public Hearing April 24, 2018)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby schedules a Public Hearing for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury to consider a \$83,600 transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 23, 2018 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

12. Executive Session.

(c) Potential property acquisition.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into executive session at 7:57pm for the purpose of discussing a potential land acquisition.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Present for the Executive Session are council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mrs. Jill Barry, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deborah A. Carroll, Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Mr. George P. Norman and Mr. Whit C. Osgood as well as Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 8:06 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING – 8:00 P.M.

NO 1 LAND ACQUISITION – ROSE PARCEL-MATSON HILL ROAD: PURCHASE OF THE 50+ ACRE ROSE PARCEL, MATSON HILL ROAD, AND A \$1.925 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Mr. Johnson reviewed the map and his memo to the Council on the subject dated March 23, 2018. Chairman Gullotta called for public comment but no one spoke. Mr. Osgood said that this is farm land and they have made a concerted effort to preserve it in this town adding that this makes sense. Chairman Gullotta echoed the sentiment. Mr. Norman asked if they do a feasibility study based on ledge and wetlands and the like. Mr. Johnson explained that they have a lot of knowledge of the land and do try to layout what development might look like including limiting factors. Mr. Norman asked about who was involved and Mr. Johnson responded saying the town engineer, environmental planner and town planner. Mr. Norman asked about valuing to ensure they don't overpay. Chairman Gullotta said that the town has extensive experience, information is provided to an independent auditor and they look at comparables adding that it has worked well for them since 1988. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Gullotta continued the public hearing until April 24, 2018.

Dr. Beckett recused himself from the following matter due to a potential conflict of interest.

NO 2 LAND ACQUISITION – CHAMBERLAIN LANE: PURCHASE OF THE 44+ ACRE CHAMBERLAIN LANE PARCEL, AND A \$530,000 APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Mr. Johnson reviewed the map and his memo to the Council on the subject dated March 23, 2018. Chairman Gullotta called for public comment but no one spoke. Mr. Niland thanked the Great Pond Stewardship group for partnering with the town to make this happen. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Gullotta closed the public hearing.

Motion By: Mr. Niland **Seconded By:** Mr. Cavanaugh
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves purchase of the 44± acre Chamberlain Lane Parcel and a \$530,000 appropriation under the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation in accordance with the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate dated March 9, 2018 as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 23, 2018 and recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Board of Finance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to Town purchase, the 44± acre Chamberlain Lane Parcel shall be dedicated to open space uses and Council approval is subject to Town satisfaction with the boundary survey, environmental analysis, and all other terms and conditions contained in the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate dated March 9, 2018.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}

Dr. Beckett returned and was recognized for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Gullotta recused himself from the following matter due to a potential conflict of interest. Vice Chairman Barry took over as chair.

NO 3 PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS – HOWE PARCEL-KEENEY STREET: PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO THE 47.5± ACRE HOWE PARCEL AND A \$775,000 APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Mr. Johnson reviewed the map and his memo to the Council on the subject dated March 23, 2018, noting that this is development rights only. Vice Chairman Barry called for public comment but no one spoke. Mr. Norman asked what the state rate was for development rights. Mr. Johnson said that his sense was that it varied on the property. Dr. Beckett said that the state does appraisals like the town but takes much longer to act. Mr. Johnson said that the appraisers they select do work for the state as well as other counties. Hearing nothing further, Vice Chairman Barry closed the public hearing.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves purchase of the development rights to the 47.5± acre Howe Parcel and a \$775,000 appropriation under the Reserve for Land Acquisition and Preservation in accordance with the Agreement for Sale and Purchase dated March 9, 2018 as described in a report by the Town Manager dated March 23, 2018 and recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Board of Finance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that action to approve Town purchase of development rights to the 47.5± acre Howe Parcel is subject to Town satisfaction with the boundary survey, environmental analysis, and all other terms and conditions contained in the Agreement for Sale and Purchase dated March 9, 2018.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {8-0-0}

Chairman Gullotta returned and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed his report to the Council dated March 23, 2018. Regarding the issue of uranium being found in wells, he said they would like to hold a public informational hearing and bring in subject matter experts to have a question and answer session. Dr. Beckett said that they had done the USA Swimming analysis four years before and noted that there seems to be questions that need to be addressed. Mr. Johnson said that there is \$30K to prepare an outdoor swimming pool for referendum but it could be reprogrammed. Chairman Gullotta questioned if the \$3.5M estimate was good for the outdoor pool in South Glastonbury. Mr. Johnson said that they would want to take another look but felt it was largely done.

Chairman Gullotta asked if \$60-\$70K was enough to go to referendum on an aquatic facility or if more was needed and Mr. Johnson indicated that likely more would be needed. Chairman Gullotta said that he was concerned they were discussing a neighborhood pool but then they are hearing about an Olympic sized pool and three different pools. He said that this seems pretty big and bringing so many people into town means a big parking lot and perhaps \$15-\$18M in costs. He said that unless they add a lot to their operating costs, they will likely have to collect \$800 to \$1000 from users. He questioned if they should go to the voters for an advisory referendum about these two options.

Mr. Cavanaugh opposed an advisory referendum and felt that was why they were elected. He said that he first supported replacing Grange in South Glastonbury but felt that there are many unanswered questions about a potential aquatic facility, its cost and where it would go including if land acquisition would be necessary. Mr. Osgood asked about Blackledge and Matson Hill

dams. Mr. Johnson said that they are in the final stages of evaluating options for Matson Hill. Dr. Beckett asked if one option was to leave the dam but just open it for the free flow of water to which Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Johnson continued and said that the Blackledge Project is in process consistent with the mitigation requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers for the Riverfront Park. He said that they could meet out there if desired.

8. Committee Reports.

(a) **Chairman's Report.** *None*

(b) **MDC.**

Mr. Osgood said that they just received the memo detailing potential charges for infrastructure updates to Glastonbury residents and it is not insignificant.

(c) **CRCOG.**

Dr. Beckett said that they received a fiscal stability report and he asked the Town Manager to share it. He noted that there could be the loss of funding and canceled projects.

Chairman Gullotta noted the article in the Hartford Courant including Dr. Beckett on the state budget.

9. Communications.

(a) **Letter from homeowners regarding uranium levels in well water.**

10. Minutes.

(a) **Minutes of March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

Motion By: Mr. Niland **Seconded By:** Dr. Beckett
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby approves the Minutes of March 13, Regular Meeting as presented.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}

11. Appointments and Resignations. *None*

12. Executive Session.

- (a) Appointment and performance of Public Officer - Town Attorney.**
- (b) Pending Litigation Town of Glastonbury v. MDC, Supreme Court Docket SC 19843.**
- (c) Potential property acquisition.**
- (d) Pending Litigation on the Riverfront Park**

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby enters into executive session at 8:40pm for the purpose of discussing the appointment and performance of Public Officer - Town Attorney, pending litigation Town of Glastonbury v. MDC, Supreme Court Docket SC 19843, potential property acquisition and pending Litigation on the Riverfront Park

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Present for the Executive Session are council members, Mr. Tom Gullotta, Chairman, Mrs. Jill Barry, Vice Chairman, Dr. Chip Beckett, Ms. Deborah A. Carroll, Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh, Ms. Mary LaChance, Mr. Lawrence Niland, Mr. George P. Norman and Mr. Whit C. Osgood as well as Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager.

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Dr. Beckett

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby exits executive session at 9:00 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

13. Adjournment

Motion By: Mr. Niland

Seconded By: Mr. Cavanaugh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Town Council hereby adjourns their regular meeting of March 27, 2018, at 9:05 pm.

Result: Motion passes unanimously {9-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meanix Miller

Kimberly Meanix Miller
Recording Clerk

Thomas Gullotta
Chairman